

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 169333  
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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DRAFTED BY NEA:RNEUMANN:MAR

APPROVED BY NEA:RNEUMANN

S/S-O:TGMARTIN

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O 201944Z JUL 77 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 169333

NODIS

FOL RPT DAMASCUS 4593 ACTION SECSTATE 20 JUL 77 QUOTE

S E C R E T DAMASCUS 4593

NODIS

FOR SECRETARY FROM MURPHY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR XF US

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER BEGIN'S "PEACE PROPOSAL"

REF: STATE 168595

1. I GOT ARABIC TRANSLATION OF YOUR MESSAGE INTO ASSAD'S

SECRET

SECRET

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HANDS THIS MORNING VIA HIS PRIVATE SECRETARY MINUTES BEFORE  
A TWO AND ONE-HALF HOUR INTERVIEW HE THEN PROCEEDED TO GIVE  
TO NEWSWEEK SENIOR EDITOR ARNAUD DEBORCHGRAVE. DEBORCHGRAVE,  
DRAWING ON ISRAELI PRESS LEAKS OF BEGIN'S ALLEGED "PEACE  
PROPOSAL," OPENED INTERVIEW SEEKING ASSAD'S REACTION.

2. SPEAKING FOR THE RECORD, ASSAD SAID "ANY SUCH PEACE

PROPOSAL WAS DEFINITELY REJECTED." PRESIDENT THEN LAPSED INTO SILENCE. DEBORCHGRAVE ASKED IF BEGIN'S REPORTED IDEAS CONTAINED POSSIBLE BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS. ASSAD REPLIED WHAT HAD BEEN ATTRIBUTED TO BEGIN DID NOT CONSTITUTE A PEACE PLAN. ATER IT WAS A COLLECTION OF IDEAS AIMED AT LEGALIZING ISRAEL'S REMAINING IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. IT WAS A "NON-STARTER AND NOT A BASIS FOR TALKS OR NEGOTIATIONS, A FACT BEGIN KNEW IN MAKING HIS PRESENTATION."

3. ACCORDING DEBORCHGRAVE, ASSAD ALSO DISMISSED IDEAS OF ROTATING CHAIRMAN OR PROXIMITY TALKS, SAYING SINCE THE PROBLEMS WERE NOT SEPARATE, THERE THEREFORE WAS NO NEED FOR SEPARATE COMMITTEES. PRESIDENT STATED ONLY OPTION HE SAW WAS TO RECONVENE GENEVA TO DISCUSS "ELEMENTS OF PEACE."

4. FOREGOING JUST GIVEN ME BY DEBORCHGRAVE IN QUICK DEBRIEFING OF HIS INTERVIEW OF ASSAD, WHICH TOGETHER WITH INTERVIEW HE EXPECTS HAVE WITH KING HUSSEIN TONIGHT AT AMMAN OR TOMORROW AT AQABA WILL CONSTITUTE HIS NEWSWEEK STORY NEXT WEEK. DEBORCHGRAVE SAID HE IS SCHEDULED INTERVIEW SADAT IN ALEXANDRIA SUNDAY EVENING, TOO LATE TO APPEAR IN NEXT NEWSWEEK.

5. COMMENT:

DEBORCHGRAVE WILL TELEX INTERVIEW TEXT FROM AMMAN TO  
SECRET

SECRET

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DAMASCUS TOMORROW FOR FINAL CLEARANCE WITH PRESIDENCY. KNOWING DEBORCHGRAVE, STRONGLY DOUBT HE WOULD BE AMENABLE TO KILLING STORY. CAN ONLY HOPE OUR INTERVENTION WILL SERVE LIMIT FURTHER SYRIAN REACTION TO VIEWS THUS FAR ONLY ATTRIBUTED TO BEGIN. MUCH WILL DEPEND ON HOW ISRAELI PRIMIN HANDLES HIS PRESS CONFERENCE LATER TODAY.

6. SUGGEST DEPARTMENT PASS AMMAN, CAIRO, JIDDA, BEIRUT  
TEL AVIV AND WHITE HOUSE.  
MURPHY  
UNQUOTE VANCE

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRIME MINISTER, PEACE, CAT-B, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, PEACE PLANS, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 20-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1977STATE169333  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** NODIS  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, PBOR, XF, US, SY, IS, (ASAD, HAFIZ), (BEGIN, MENACHEM), (DEBORCHGRAVE, ARNAUD)  
**To:** AMMAN CAIRO MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009